

THE JOHNS HOPKINS TABELLAE DEFIXIONUM

BY

WILLIAM SHERWOOD FOX

A DISSERTATION

Presented to the Board of University Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in
conformity with the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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EXPLANATION OF THE SIGNS EMPLOYED
IN THE TEXT AND INDICES.

- [] Includes letters lost through fracture of the lead.
- () Includes letters omitted through the error of the scribe.
- <> Includes letters added through the error of the scribe.

CHAPTER I.

THE *Tabellae Defixionum* OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

§ 1 History and Description.

In the year 1908 the Department of Classical Archaeology of the Johns Hopkins University acquired several *tabellae defixionum* popularly known as curse-tablets.¹ The person through whom the acquisition was made possible was unable to give a definite assurance as to their provenience, but stated his belief that they had been found at Rome. Thorough study of the tablets themselves has led to the conviction that they actually originated in that city.

The tablets were in two distinct divisions. One of these consisted of a nail .127 metres in length, the point of which was cloven into two long splinters each half as long as the whole nail. About the broad head were tightly bound by a thick accumulation of rust many exceedingly thin fragments of lead. On one side twenty-five layers could be counted, and on the opposite side twenty-eight. The greatest width of this mass of fragments before it was subjected to the chemical treatment to be described shortly, was .051 and the smallest .048 metres.

The other division of the tablets consisted of a promiscuous heap of brittle chips of lead, no two being of the same shape and size. In thickness they varied from one to three millimetres, and in area from one-quarter of a square centimetre to thirty or forty square centimetres. Most of the fragments approximated the smaller area. On nearly every one were visible early Roman cursive characters that had been incised with a stylus. The incisions varied considerably in depth and distinctness.

¹ A preliminary report of these was published by the author in the Johns Hopkins University Circular, New Series, 1910, No. 6, pp. 7-10. The complete publication, consisting of facsimiles, commentaries, indices and a discussion of the palaeography, provenience and date of the tablets, may be found in the *Supplement to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGY*, XXXIII (1912), I, whole No. 129.

Another feature in which there was a marked lack of uniformity was color. Some pieces were characterized by the normal color of lead; some were reddish, some bluish, and others of a shade midway between purple and brown. A little handling and scrutiny of the material revealed the fact that the variations in thickness and color bore a direct and fairly constant relation to one another. This was invaluable in the subsequent reconstruction of the tablets, as will be shown in a later paragraph. Besides the ground colors peculiar to the several fragments there was a coating of whitish powder and crystals covering the surfaces unevenly and this in certain places made the writing wholly illegible.

For the joint purpose of removing the coating and of accounting for the brittle condition of the lead, the mass on the nail and selected loose fragments were submitted to the chemists¹ for examination. Their report was that "the layers of the tablet have been changed in large part from metallic lead to compounds of lead by the action of soil or atmosphere or water. The whitish outer coating consists of a basic carbonate of lead, while underneath is another compound, probably litharge. In some instances there is an exceedingly thin layer of unchanged metallic lead". This whitish compound is evidently in part what Wünsch in his description of the Attic tablets poetically calls "the dust of ages".²

§ 2 Reconstruction.

The first step towards the reconstruction of the tablets was to select the loose fragments on which even a single stroke of writing was visible, though not necessarily decipherable. The result was two hundred and ten working fragments, one-third of which were very small. Those set aside as useless number apparently about three hundred. Each of the working fragments was deposited in its own separate and numbered envelope. The largest were then deciphered as far as the condition of their surfaces permitted without cleaning by chemical means, and in the process exact facsimiles were drawn on individual cards numbered to correspond to the envelopes just mentioned. This process supplied an alphabet and a number of broken lines of

¹ Professor S. F. Acree and Dr. E. K. Marshall, Jr. of the Johns Hopkins University.

² Wünsch, Richard, *Defixionum Tabellae Atticae*, I. G. III 3, Praef. i.

text, some of which recurred several times in slightly varied form. The alphabet served as a key to the obscure letters in the smaller fragments still to be deciphered, while the broken lines gave a clue to the general sense and connection of the writing. The recurrence of certain words and groups of words suggested that the fragments represented not one tablet, but several, originally pierced by one and the same nail. The decipherment of the smaller fragments was carried on in the same manner.

The first attempt to assemble the parts in their original relation to one another was made only when the above stage of decipherment was completed. Several features served as guides in this restoration. These are, the sense of the text, the uniform relations between color and thickness of the lead, the presence of outer or top edges on a few fragments, and the appearance of writing on the reverse side of a relatively small number. On the other hand, there were many obstacles in the way of complete reconstruction, chief of which were the impossibility of making use of the portion of the lead still on the spike, and the similarity of outline in the broken edges. Obviously the latter difficulty could not be removed, but the former seemed not entirely insurmountable. In the hope that a few fragments might be released from the nail the chemists' aid was again sought. By the use of a weak solution of sulphuric acid they succeeded after several days in loosening nineteen fragments, which, however, proved to be of little value owing to their mutilated condition. As the acid was apparently rendering the lead too brittle to handle, it was thought wise to proceed no further with the experiment; moreover, it seemed improbable that any fragments saved would make a sufficient contribution to counterbalance the loss of so valuable a relic as the nail and its holdings. But in spite of the difficulties, the sense of the text, interrupted though it was, soon revealed the fact that we were dealing with five distinct tablets. With this established, the significance of the uniform relation between the color and the thickness of the fragments became obvious. It was found that those belonging to the tablet henceforth to be designated as Aquillia were very thin and alarmingly fragile and of a purplish-brown hue; those of Plotius were thick and bluish; those of Vesonia were thick and reddish, while those of Avonia were of a similar tinge but somewhat thinner; finally the fragments of Secunda were thin and of that dull gray shade characteristic of pure lead. In a few instances the presence of

right, left, or top edges made it possible to locate some fragments with absolute definiteness to the right or to the left of the nail or at the beginning of the tablet from which they had been broken. No lower edges were found. Where writing could be read on both sides it was usually easy to locate a fragment, as the obverse and reverse contexts afforded a sort of double check in their particular zones. After the application of this test it soon became apparent that only three of the tablets were opisthographic.

There now remained two or three dozen fragments too thickly coated with the deposit of lead carbonate to be legible. These the chemists treated with dilute nitric acid which after a very brief immersion readily dissolved the carbonate, but did not appreciably affect the body of the layer. In this way the majority of these fragments were made decipherable. The total number read was two hundred and twenty, and all but sixty-two could be located in their proper places with almost absolute certainty. Of this latter group thirty-nine could by the indications of color and thickness of the lead and by the style of handwriting be assigned with some degree of accuracy to the several tablets from which they came, but not to their original contexts.

§ 3 Description of the Reconstructed Tablets.

Were the edges of the tablets without irregularities it would be possible to estimate their several areas to within a centimetre or two of the correct figures, as the general outlines of the pairs of opposite edges are practically parallel. In the case of Aquillia the fragments are too few to bear out this statement; yet, if an attempt is made to reproduce in cursive writing its formula as supplemented from the other tablets, it will be found that most of the lines of the text are virtually uniform in length. Towards the end of the tablet some of the lines gradually become shorter, but on reaching their minimum length they return just as gradually to their average dimension. This points to a narrowing of the lamina at this part. In *Secunda* a fragment from the lower right hand corner shows a slight tapering towards the bottom of the lamina. The experiment of reproducing the formula, however, in letters similar in size and form to those of the original reveals the fact that the left hand edge con-

tinues to the very bottom with a marked deviation from the straight line.¹

To fit the present reconstruction to the broken layers on the nail is quite impossible. Nevertheless, one can determine the original order by comparing the character of the lead on the nail with the well-established character of the lead in the reconstructed tablets. The layers nearest the head of the nail undoubtedly belonged to Aquillia; Secunda² came next, then Avonia, then Vesonias, and lastly Plotius.

The fragments also tell us how the laminae were originally folded. On only one fold that is visible on the nail does writing appear on the outer, i. e. the convex side. Loose fragments, too, that have been broken at the line of folding have edges that turn slightly in towards the side bearing the text. Both of these observations lead to the inference that in general the tablets were rolled into cylindrical shape with the writing on the inside for protection against abrasion and for concealment from prying eyes; for should the writing be injured in any way the formula would be of no effect, or, should human eyes read it, counter-formulae might be composed or other means resorted to that might bring the evil of the formula back like a boomerang upon its author. The nail, when driven into such a yielding material as lead, packed the laminae together and created very pronounced lines of folding. Estimating the combined length of all the tablets at 148.3 centimetres, and allowing for twenty-seven layers, the average width of the folds was 5.5 centimetres. The widest fragment is one belonging to Vesonias (no. 12) which measures 8 centimetres; some are no wider than 2 centimetres. These figures seem to indicate the two extremes of width.

¹ Very few *tabellae defixionum* are of greater superficial area than these. Cf. Aud. nos. 15 and 271.

² Thus designated for lack of a better name.

CHAPTER II.

TEXT AND ANNOTATION.

§ 1 Plotius.

Lead tablet 31.6 x 11.3 cm. without writing on the reverse.
A preliminary transcription without restoration was published in
The Johns Hopkins University Circular, 1910, No. 6, pp. 8-9.

- bona · pulchra proserpina .lut.nis · uxor
seiue · me · saluiam deicere · oportet
eripias · salutem · c.....lorem · uires · uirtutes ·
ploti · tradas ·uiro · tuo · ni · possit · cogitati
5 sueis · hoc · uita.....illunc · \ onibus
febri · quartan.e · t.....nae · cottidia.ae
quas ·uct.....
eu..cant.....usq.....
...s · eripia.....nc · uictimam
10 tibi · trad.....rpi.....e · me
proserpin.....ue · m.....^{iam}eruos dicere
oportet · m.....rcessitum · canem
tricepitem · qui.....cor · eripiat · polliciar
illi · te · daturum t.es · uictimas · \ us
15 palma.....rica · por.um · nigrum ·
hoc · sei · pe...cerit.....
m.....r.....
cum · compote · fe...is · do tibi · cap..
ploti · auon.....oserpina · s.....
20 do tibi · fron.....ti · proserpina · saluia
do ... b. su.....ploti · proserpin.
saluia do.....s · plo..

- proserpina · sa.....
 ploti · prosers
 25 labra · or.....m lin.uam ·
 dentes p.....ni dicere · possit ·
 plotius · quid.....at · collum ·umeros
 braccia · d.git.....ssit · aliquit ·
 se · adiutare...c.....cinera · cor ·
 30 pulmones · n.....sentique · quit ·
 sibi · doleat.....tina · uenter · um. licu.
 latera .i p...it · dormire · scapulas
 ni · poss.. s.nus · dormire · uiscum ·
 sacrum · nei · possit · urinam · facere ·
 35 natis · anum ...ina · genua
 · tibias pe.....
s · ungis · ni · po.....tare · ...
 ..rt.te · seiue....s · seiue · paruum
 scrip..... quomodo · quicqu..
 40 legitim..... mandauit · seic
 ego ploti · ti.....ado · mando
 ut · tradasnse · february.
 .cillunc · mal.....e · exset
 ...e · disperd.....das · ni · possit ·
 45s ullum.....ere ·
re

Text supplemented from the other tablets.

- Bona pulchra Proserpina, [P]lut[o]nis uxor,
 seiue me Saluiam deicere oportet,
 eripias salutem, c[or]pus, co]lorem, uires, uirtutes
 Ploti. Tradas[Plutoni] uiro tuo. Ni possit cogitati
 5 sueis hoc uita[re. Tradas] illunc \ onibus
 Febri quartan[a]e, t[ertian]ae, cottidia[n]ae,
 quas [cum illo l]uct[ent, deluctent; illunc]

- eu[in]cant, [uincant], usq[ue dum animam
eiu]s eripia[nt. Quare ha]nc uictimam
10 tibi trad[o, Prose]rpi[na, seiue] me,
Proserpin[a, seiue] m[e Ach]eru^{iam}os dicere
oportet. M[e mittas a]rcessitum canem
tricepitem, qui [Ploti] cor eripiat. Polliciar
illi te daturum t[r]es uictimas— \ us
15 palma[s, ca]rica[s], por[c]um nigrum—
hoc sei pe[rfe]cerit [ante mensem]
M[artium. Haec, P]r[oserpina Saluia, tibi dabo]
cum compote fe[cer]is. Do tibi cap[ut]
Ploti Auon[iae. Pr]oserpina S[aluia],
20 do tibi fron[tem Plo]ti. Proserpina Saluia,
do [ti]b[i] su[percilia] Ploti. Proserpin[a]
Saluia, do [tibi palpebra]s Plo[ti].
Proserpina Sa[luia, do tibi pupillas]
Ploti. Proser[pina Saluia, do tibi nare]s,
25 labra, or[iculas, nasu]m, lin[g]uam,
dentes P[loti], ni dicere possit
Plotius quid [sibi dole]at: collum, umeros,
brachia, d[i]git[os, ni po]ssit aliquit
se adiutare: [pe]c[tus, io]cinera, cor,
30 pulmones, n[i possit] senti(re) quit
sibi doleat: [intes]tina, uenter, um[b]licu[s],
latera, [n]i p[oss]it dormire: scapulas,
ni poss[it] s[a]nus dormire: uiscum
sacrum, nei possit urinam facere:
35 natis, anum, [fem]ina, genua,
[crura], tibias, pe[des, talos, plantas,
digito]s, ungis, ni po[ssit s]tare [sua
ui]rt[ute. Seiue [plu]s, seiue paruum
scrip[tum fuerit], quomodo quicqu[id]
40 legitim[e scripsit], mandauit, seic
ego Ploti ti[bi tr]ado, mando,

ut tradas, [mandes me]nse Februari[o
e]cillunc. Mal[e perdat, mal]e exset,
[mal]e disperd[at. Mandes, tra]das, ni possit
45 [ampliu]s ullum [mensem aspic]ere,
[uidere, contempla]re.

§ 2 Avonia.

Lead tablet 29 x 11.3 cm., with writing across the back about midway between the upper and lower edges.

A

.ona · pu.....roserpina · plutoni.
.xsor · seiue · deicere · oportet ·
eripias · salu....corp.. colorem · uires ·
uirtutes au..ia..t.adas · plutoni ·
5 uiro tuo.....onibus · s.....
quicqui. uit.....
febri quart..ae · t.....
quas cum · illa .ucten
euincant · uinca.....
10 eius · eripiant · ..are hanc · uictimam
.... tradoa · seiue · me
....erpina · se.....eruosiam dicere
...rtet · me · m.....cessitum · cane.
.....te.....s cor eripiat
15urum · tres · uictim..
palmas · carica.....grum · hoc · sei ·
perfecerit · an.....martium · haec
...ia tibi · dabo cu. · compotem · feceris
do tibi caput auon...s pr...rpina · saluia · d.
20 tibi · frontem auonia.....oserpina · saluia
do tibi · superciliaaes · proserpina
..luia · do · tibi · palpe...s auoniaes · proserpi..
..alu.a · do ..bi · pupillas ..onia.s
...uia · do · t... oricula....branasum

- 25 ..ntes · liguam · auon.....e · possit
 ...nia · quid · s.bi ...eats
 ..acchia · digito....possit · ali....
 se adiutare · pec.....nera · cor
 pulmones · ni quit · sentire ·
 30 quit · sibi · dolea.....ina · uenter ·
 umblicus · scapul.. latera · ni · po....
 dorm.re · uiscum sac.um · ni possi.
 urinam · f...res · femina ·
 anum · gen.....a · tibias · pedes
 35 talos .la.....tos · ungis · ni ·
 ..ssitsu.....te seiue
 plus ·e p..uumptum
 fuerit · quomodo · quicqui.....me ·
 scripsit · mandau....eic · ego ...niam
 40 tibi · trado man.. ut · tradas
 .ensi februario.....xs..

The remainder of the formula is continued on the back of the tablet, the writing running in the opposite direction to that on the face.

B

- male · disperd.....nd.....adas
 nei · po.s.t ampli.. ull..
 men.em aspicere · ui....
 45 contemplare

Text supplemented from the other tablets.

A

- [B]ona pu[lchra P]roserpina, Plutoni[s
 u]xsor, seiue [me Saluiam] deicere oportet,
 eripias salu[tem], corp[us], colorem, uires,
 uirtutes Au[on]ia[e]. T[r]adas Plutoni
 5 uiro tuo. [Ni possit cogitati]onibus s[ueis hoc]
 quicqui[d] uit[are]. Protinus tradas illanc]

- Febri quart[an]ae, t[ert]ianae, cottidianae],
 quas cum illa [l]ucten[t, deluctent ; illanc]
 euincant, uincan[t, usque dum animam]
 10 eius eripiant. [Qu]are hanc uictimam
 [tibi] trado, [Proserpin]a, seiue me,
 [Pros]erpina, se[iue me Ach]eruosiā dicere
 [opo]rtet. Me m[ittas a]rcessitum cane[m
 tricipi]te[m, qui Auoniae]s cor eripiat.
 15 [Pollicearis illi te dat]urum tres uictim[as]—
 palmas, carica[s, porcū ni]grum—hoc sei
 perfecerit an[te mensem] Martium. Haec,
 [Salu]ia, tibi dabo, cu[m] compotem feceris.
 Do tibi caput[A]uon[iae]s. Pr[ose]rpina Saluia, d[o]
 20 tibi frontem Auonia[e. Pr]oserpina Saluia,
 do tibi supercilia [Auoni]aes. Proserpina
 [Sa]luia, do tibi palpe[bra]s Auoniaes. Proserpi[na
 S]alu[i]a, do [ti]bi pupillas [Au]onia[e]s. [Proserpina
 Sal]uia, do t[ibi] oricula[s, la]bra, [nares], nasum,
 25 [de]ntes, liguam Auon[iae], ni dice[re] possit
 [Auo]nia quid s[i]bi [dol]eat: [collum, umero]s,
 [br]acchia, digito[s, ni] possit ali[quid]
 se adiutare: pec[tus, ioci]nera, cor,
 pulmones, ni [possit] quit sentire
 30 quit sibi dolea[t: intest]ina, uenter,
 umblicus, scapul[as], latera, ni po[ssit]
 dorm[i]re: uiscum sac[r]um, ni possi[t]
 urinam f[ace]re: [nati]s, femina,
 anum, gen[ua, crur]a, tibias, pedes,
 35 talos, [p]la[ntas, digi]tos, ungis, ni
 [po]ssit [stare] su[a uirtu]te. Seiue
 plus, [seiu]e p[ar]uum [scri]ptum
 fuerit, quomodo quicqui[d legiti]me
 scripsit, mandau[it, s]eic ego [Auo]niam

- 40 tibi trado, man[do], ut tradas [illanc
m]ensi Februario. [Male perdat, male e]xs[eat],

B

male disperd[at]. Ma]nd[es, tr]adas,
nei po[s]s[i]t ampli[us] ull[um]
men[s]em aspicere, ui[dere],

- 45 contemplare.

§3 Vesonía.

Lead tablet 30.3 x 11.5 cm. with writing on the reverse midway between the ends.

A

- bona · pulch.....a · plutonis · uxor
seiue · me · s..uia.....e · oportet · eripias ·
salutem · c.rpus colorem · uires · uirtutes
maximae · uesoniae · tra....pluton.
5 uiro ... nī · poss.....gitationibus · su.....
quicq.....tinu..tra.....
febri · qu.....anae.....
quas · cum illa · luc.....
eu.ncant · uincan...sque · dum · anima.
10 e... eripiant · q...e hanc · uictima.
tibi · trad. · p.....ue · me · pros.....
seiue · me.....dicere · oportet....
mitta.....m · canem tr..ep....
qui.....e cor · er..iat
15 polli.....turum · tres uictimas
palm.....um · nigrum
hoc · sei .erf.....te · mense · martium ·
ha.ca ti.....cum · compote.
fece..s · do tibi · ca....max.m.e · uesoniae
20 p....pina s.lui. do · tibi frontem
ma.imae.....ae · proserpina s.....
do tibi · super.....esoníaes · proserpina

- saluia · do tibi · palpetras · maximae · uesoni..
 proserpina saluia · do · tibi · pupillas · uesoniae
 25 proserpina · saluia · do tibi · oriclas · labras ·
 nares · nasum · lingua · dentes · maximae
 uesoniae · nei · dicere · possit · maxima ·
 uesonia · quid · sibi · doleat · collum ·
 umeros bra.....digitos · ni · possit · aliq
 30 se....utar.....inera · cor \ uit
 pulmone.....t · sentire · quit.....
 doleat · i...st....uenter · umb.....
 scapulae.....ni.....
 uiscu.....n.....rina.
 35 face.....
 genua...bia.....a pedes
 talos.....s · ungis · ni ·
 possit · sta.....tute · seiue · plus ·
 seiue · par.....m fuerit ·
 40 quomod.....scripsit
 man.....ax..am
 uesto.....

The remainder of the formula is continued on the reverse of the tablet, the writing running in the same direction as that on the face.

B

- trado m.....nc ·
 mensi · februar.....male ·
 45 male · perdat.....x. et ·
 male · disp.rdat · tr.das
 ni · possit..mpliu. ullum ·
 .ensem · aspi.ere uid.re ·
 contemplar.

Text supplemented from the other tablets.

A

- Bona pulch[ra Proserpin]a, Plutonis uxor,
 seiue me S[al]uia[m dicer]e oportet, eripias
 salutem, c[or]pus, colorem, uires, uirtutes
 Maximae Vesoniae. Tra[da]s Pluton[i]
 5 uiro [tuo]. Ni poss[it co]gitationibus su[is hoc]
 quicq[uid uitare]. Pro[ti]nu[s] tra[da]s illanc]
 Febri qu[artanae, terti]anae, [cottidiana],
 quas cum illa luc[tent, delu]cent; illanc]
 eu[er]incant, uincan[t, u]sque dum anima[m]
 10 e[ius] eripiant. Q[ua]re hanc uictima[m]
 tibi trad[o], P[roserpina, sei]ue me, Pros[erpina],
 seiue me [Acherusiam] dicere oportet. Me]
 mitta[s arcessitu]m canem tr[ic]ep[item],
 qui [Maximae Vesonia]e cor er[ip]iat.
 15 Polli[cearis illi te da]turum tres uictimas—
 palm[as, caricas, porc]um nigrum—
 hoc sei [p]erf[ecerit an]te mense Martium.
 Ha[ec], [Salui]a, ti[bi dabo], cum compote[m]
 fece[ris]. Do tibi ca[put] Max[i]mae Vesoniae.
 20 P[roser]pina S[al]ui[a], do tibi frontem
 Ma[x]imae [Vesoni]ae. Proserpina S[al]uia],
 do tibi super[cilia V]esoniaes. Proserpina
 Saluia, do tibi palpetras Maximae Vesoni[ae].
 Proserpina Saluia, do tibi pupillas Vesoniae.
 25 Proserpina Saluia, do tibi oriclas, labras,
 nares, nasum, lingua, dentes Maximae
 Vesoniae, nei dicere possit Maxima
 Vesonia quid sibi doleat: collum,
 umeros, bra[cchia], digitos, ni possit aliq
 30 se [adi]utar[e: pectus, ioc]inera, cor, \ uit
 pulmone[s, ni possi]t sentire quit sibi

- doleat: i[n]te]st[ina], uenter, umb[ilicus],
 scapulae, [latera], n[i possit dormire]:
 uiscu[m sacrum], n[i possit u]rina[m]
 35 face[re: natis, anum, femina],
 genua, [ti]bia[s, crur]a, pedes,
 talos, [plantas, digito]s, ungis, ni
 possit sta[re sua uir]tute. Seieue plus,
 seieue par[uum scriptu]m fuerit,
 40 quomod[o quicquid legitime] scripsit,
 man[dauit, seic ego M]ax[im]am
 Veso[niam, Proserpina, tibi]

B

- trado, m[ando, ut tradas illa]nc
 mensi Februar[io. Male], male,
 45 male perdat, [male e]x[s]et,
 male disp[e]rdat. Tr[a]das,
 ni possit [a]mpliu[s] ullum
 [m]ensem aspi[c]ere, uid[e]re,
 contemplar[e].

§ 4 Secunda.

Lead tablet 30.4 x 16.5 cm. with writing on the reverse beginning at the lower end. Nothing of this tablet is preserved to the left of the longitudinal axis.

A

-seieue • me •
c.rpus
irt.....i tra.as •
us•su..s•hoc .
 5tan.e
s cu.....uctent •
uin.....nt • usque •
s...ipia.....re • hanc •
traseieue • me •

- 10dicere ·
nem ·
pia....lliciarus
lmas ·
fecerit
- 15ina · tibi ·
is · do · tibi ·
a · do · tibi
luia do tibi ·
luia do tibi ·
- 20do tibi · pupillas ·
ares · labra
asum ·
quid.....leat ·
acc....dig.....possit ·
- 25ect.....nera ·
sit · sen.....quit ·
nter umblicus ·
cap..as · ni
m · sacrum
- 30f.....num
u.....as · pedes
 B
ni ·
tu.....ue
um
- 35q..t · legitime
seic ego
tibi trado
llun..m.nsi
o mal...ërd.t · male
- 40rd.t · m.....das
m · m....m aspicere

Text supplemented from the other tablets.

A

[Bona pulchra Proserpina, Plutonis uxor], seiue me
[Saluiam dicere oportet, eripias salutem], c[o]rpus,
[colorem, uires, u]irt[utes]i. Tra[d]as
[Plutoni uiro tuo. Ni possit cogitationib]us su[ei]s
hoc

- 5 [quicquid uitare. Tradas illunc Febri quar]tan[a]e,
[tertianae, cottidianae, qua]s cu[m illo l]uctent,
[deludent; illunc e]uin[cant, uinca]nt, usque
[dum animam eiu]s [er]ipia[nt. Qua]re hanc
[uictimam tibi] tra[do, Proserpina], seiue me,
10 [Proserpina, seiue me Acherusiam] dicere
[oportet. Me mittas arcessitum ca]nem
[tricipitem, quii cor eri]pia[t. Po]lliciarius
[illi te daturum tres uictimas—pa]lmas,
[caricas, porcum nigrum—hoc sei per]fecerit
15 [ante mensem Martium. Haec, Proserp]ina, tibi
[dabo, cum compotem fecer]is. Do tibi
[caput.....i. Proserpina Salui]a, do tibi
[frontem.....i. Proserpina Sa]luia, do tibi
[supercilia.....i. Proserpina Sa]luia, do tibi
20 [palpebras.....i. Proserpina Saluia], do tibi
pupillas
[.....i. Proserpina Saluia, do tibi n]ares, labra,
[orículas, linguam, dentes, n]asum
[.....i, ni dicere possitius] quid [sibi do]leat:
[collum, umeros, br]acc[hia], dig[itos, ni] possit
25 [aliquid se adiutare: p]ect[us, ioci]nera,
[cor, pulmones, ni pos]sit sen[tire] quit
[sibi doleat: intestina, ue]nter, umblicus,
[latera, ni possit dormire: s]cap[ul]as, ni

- [possit sanus dormire : uiscu]m sacrum,
 30 [ni possit urinam] f[acere : natis, a]num,
 [femina, gen]u[a, crura, tibi]as, pedes,

B

- [talos, plantas, digitos, ungis], ni
 [possit stare sua uir]tu[te. Sei]ue
 [plus, seiue paruum script]um
 35 [fuerit, quomodo quic]q[ui]t legitime
 [scripsit, mandauit], seic ego
 [.....] tibi trado,
 [mando, ut tradas i]llun[c] m[e]nsi
 [Februari]o. Mal[e p]erd[a]t, male
 40 [exseat, male dispe]rd[a]t. M[andes, tra]das,
 [ni possit amplius ullu]m m[ense]m aspicere,
 [uidere, contemplare].

§ 5 Aquillia.

Lead tablet 27 x 15.4 cm. without writing on the reverse.

-proser...a · pl.....xsor se...
ere.....ias · s.utem
ae · aqu.....
pos.....ationibus.....
 5lla....ebri qua..ana.
uctent
ncant · u....
re hanc
tra.....seiue me
 10m · dic.....
trice.....
ciarus
ma.....

- 15

pros.....o t..i.....
serpin.....d...bi su.....

 20ros.....pilla.
o t.....

 25diuta.....
es.....
nt.....

cum...rum
 30f.....
s * cru.....
tos *
 .tare sua.....
 seiue paru.....riptum.....
 35leg.....psi.
se.....
das m.....

erd.....
 40

Text supplemented from the other tablets.

[Bona pulchra] Proser[pin]a, Pl[utonis u]xsor, se[iue
 me Saluiam dic]ere [oportet, erip]ias s[al]utem,
 [corpus, colorem, uires, uirtutes]ae Aqu[illiae].
 Tradas Plutoni uiro tuo. Ni] pos[sit cogit]ati-
 onibus [sueis

5 hoc quicquid uitare. Tradas i]lla[nc F]ebri
 qua[rt]ana[e,

- tertianae, cottidianae, quas cum illa l]uctent,
 [delucent: illanc euincant, ui]ncant, u[s]que
 dum animam eius eripiant. Qua]re hanc
 [uictimam tibi] tra[do, Proserpina], seiue me,
 10 [Proserpina, seiue me Acherusia]m dic[ere oportet.
 Me mittas arcessitum canem] trice[pitem,
 quiae Aquilliae cor eripiat. Polli]ciarius
 [illi te daturum tres uictimas—pal]ma[s, caricas,
 porcum nigrum—hoc sei perfecerit ante mensem
 15 Martium. Haec, Proserpina Saluia, tibi dabo, cum
 compotem feceris. Do tibi caputae
 Aquilliae]. Pros[erpina Saluia, d]o t[ibi]i [frontem
ae
 Aquilliae. Pro]serpin[a Saluia], d[o ti]bi su[per-
 cilia
ae Aquilliae. Proserpina Saluia, do tibi palpe-
 bras
 20ae Aquilliae. P]ros[erpina Saluia, do tibi
 pu]pilla[s
ae Aquilliae. Proserpina Saluia, d]o t[ibi]
 nares,
 labra, oriculas, nasum, linguam, dentesae
 Aquilliae, ni dicere possita Aquillia quid
 sibi doleat: collum, umeros, bracchia, digitos,
 25 ni possit aliquid se a]diuta[re: pectus,
 cor, iocinera, pulmon]es, [ni possit sentire
 quid sibi doleat: i]nt[estina, uenter, umblicus
 latera, ni possit dormire: scapulas, ni
 possit sana dormire: uis]cum [sac]rum,
 30 [ni possit urinam facere]: f[emina,
 natis, anum, genua, tibia]s, cru[ra, pedes,
 talos, plantas, digi]tos, [ungis, ni possit,
 s]tare sua [uirtute. Seiue plus],
 seiue paru[um sc]riptum [fuerit,

35 quomodo quicquid] leg[itime scri]psi[t,
 mandauit], se[ic ego Aquilliam tibi trado,
 mando, ut tra]das, m[andes illanc mense
 Februario. Male perdat, male exseat, male
 disp]erd[at. Mandes, tradas, ni possit amplius
 40 ullum mensem aspicere, uidere, contemplare].

§ 6 Transcription of fragments which cannot be assigned
 to their original places.

(a) Probably belonging to Plotius.

	120	129
1	a	ri
2	a	.

(b) Probably belonging to Avonia.

	208
1	se
2	ra

(c) Probably belonging to Secunda.

	52 (obv.)	52 (rev.)	87	126	131
1	o ti	u	.	.ru	r..a
2		t	dice[re]		[po]ss[i]t
3			e		
	148	157 (obv.)	157 (rev.)	170	193
1	..s(?)	.u	m	ic	n

(d) Probably belonging to Aquillia.

	54c	56	58	95	
1	n	..	[Pros]erpi[na]	ep...u.	
2	in	.ua			
3	.				
	114	125	135	137	153
1	o(?)ra	au	q	.	e
2	.	.	r	r	ae

	156	163	169	172	175	
1	p.	Pro[serpina]	[sei]ue	.	ui	
2	..			g		
	177	179	183	185	188	190
1	.	.	m(?)	la	c.	n.
2	r.	e			s	
3		r				
	195	196	199	201	203	204
1	r	ia	ti	m	[po]ss[it]	m

(e) Fragments which cannot be assigned to any tablet.

	59	89	98	112	127	
1	.	u	[Proser]pina	.	a	
2	.	ta	.pos[sit]	p		
	134	141	145	147	158	162
1	.	pa	.	m	..	ae
2	as	d s		..		
3	..					
	165	166	168	171	189	194
1	a	.m	[po]ss[it]	a....	u	or
	198	200	211	213	214	
1	p	.a	po	ui	il	

VITA.

William Sherwood Fox was born in Throopsville, N. Y., June 17, 1878. His elementary and High School education was received in Erie and Pittsburgh, Pa., and Toronto, Canada. In 1896 he entered McMaster University of the last named city, where for four years he pursued the special courses in the classical languages. He there obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1900 and five years later that of Master of Arts. In the autumn of 1900 he was appointed Professor of Latin and Greek in Brandon College, Brandon, Manitoba, which position he held until 1909. During this period he was granted two years leave of absence for the purpose of further study. The first year, 1902-3, was spent in the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Athens; and the following year in the Johns Hopkins University. At the termination of his residence in Brandon in 1909 he resumed his studies in Johns Hopkins, selecting as his subjects Classical Archaeology, Greek and Latin. For the year 1909-10 he was Fellow by Courtesy, and for 1910-11 University Fellow in the department of Classical Archaeology.

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